

**Amendment to the Specification**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, first paragraph:

**Cross-Reference to Related Application**

This application is related to:

United States ~~patent application Serial~~ Patent No. ~~08/951,757~~ 6,600,823 (July 29, 2003) (Hayosh) entitled "Apparatus and Method for Enhancing Check Security," filed October 16, 1997; and,

United States ~~patent application Serial~~ Patent No. ~~09/226,819~~ 6,212,504 (April 3, 2001) (Hayosh) entitled "Self-Authentication of Value Documents Using Encoded Indices," filed January 6, 1999,

both of which are assigned to the assignee of the present application and which are incorporated in its their entirety by reference herein.

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